

DFS QUARTERLY

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Central Agrees to CPSC Recall of Omega Sprinkler Heads

Aug. 1, 1999 Deadline for Claiming Reimbursement Costs

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler announced on October 14, 1998 the nationwide recall of approximately 8.4 million Omega brand fire sprinklers manufactured since 1982 by Central Sprinkler Corp. and its subsidiary, Central Sprinkler Co., of Lansdale, Pa. CPSC alleges that Omegas are defective and could likely fail in a fire. This recall announcement follows the resolution of the lawsuit filed by the Commission staff against these companies on March 3, 1998. CPSC alleges that, on average, between 30 and 40 percent of Omegas removed from various locations across the country for testing failed to activate as they should. In some buildings, all Omegas tested failed to activate. CPSC is warning consumers that they are at risk of bodily injury or death and should have Omegas replaced as soon as possible. CPSC is urging consumers to take immediate action to determine whether the buildings where they live and work are equipped with Omegas, and if so, to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall



Hotline to participate in the recall. Properly functioning fire sprinklers save lives when a fire occurs. With the Omega sprinklers, this line of defense may not be there when it is needed most. CPSC has received reports of Omega sprinklers not functioning in 17 fires. At least four persons

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Fire & Explosion Investigations

The men and women of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section are having a very busy year. According to Lieutenant Marty Fay, the Section Commander, the Investigation Section has handled 2015 investigations or calls for service since the first of the year. In 1997, 1800 investigation/calls for service were handled. Lt. Fay anticipates the Investigation Section will handle about 2300 cases in 1998. This will be an approximate 30% increase in

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OSFM Division Director Appointed

Todd Harrington has been promoted from the position of Explosives Safety Manager to Division Director for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

While he served as the first ever Explosives Safety Manager for the division, Todd's people management skills, customer service perspective and expertise in one of the major technical areas for the division impressed many who worked with

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From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

There have been some interesting issues involving the unique application of the fire and building codes.

Central Agrees to Omega Recall

I am extremely pleased that Massachusetts contributed to the Central Sprinkler Company's decision to finally agree to recall the Omega sprinkler heads. Two of the documented 17 fires where Omega sprinkler heads failed occurred in Massachusetts. One of the fires in our state was the first documented failure in a plastic pipe system. This failure blew a hole in Central's defense that cutting oil in metal pipes was the cause of the documented failures. Agreement to the recall will save property owners in Massachusetts tens of thousands of dollars. I have sent a letter to Fire Chiefs that explains the building and fire official enforcement issues.

Rainforest Café

The Rainforest Café applied for permits to build one of its theme restaurants in the Burlington Mall. They currently have 28 of these types of restaurants nationwide. There was a question of whether or not the materials used to create the rainforest theme atmosphere met the provisions of the fire and building codes. Rainforest argued that they should not be held to the more stringent testing standards of

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From the Desk of the State Fire Marshal

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527 CMR 21 Interior Decoration but that the material used to create their theme should be classified as interior finish, regulated by the building code. The entire matter is a building code issue and the Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) was asked for a ruling. The BBRS allowed RainForest to test the material using an alternative method believed to be more appropriate to the type of material being used than the method specified in 527 CMR 21. I supported the Burlington Fire Chief's request that the particular sample to be tested be physically taken from the Burlington facility. A temporary certificate of occupancy was granted by the Burlington building official pending the test results ordered by the BBRS with a requirement on the test sample that paralleled the Fire Chief's and my concerns.

Spooky World

Spooky World is a Hallowe'en theme park with a combination of interior and exterior amusements. Certain summer renovations to the interior amusements led the Berlin building official to determine a classification for the structures that would require sprinklers. Since the owner failed to abide by the building official's order, the Town of Berlin sought a temporary restraining order. The local Fire Chief, the building official and myself closed and secured the buildings. Further inspection showed additional building code violations. This was compounded by the failure of the owner to produce certification that the materials met the requirements in 527 CMR 21 on interior decorations. Spooky World stayed shut down while it appealed the building official's order to the BBRS. The Board conducted a site visit and one day before the appeal was to be heard, it was withdrawn and the theme park shut down. The Fire Official charged with enforcement sought help from the Code Compliance and the

Code Enforcement Units in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. If the owner refused to comply with the building code order, the Fire Chief was prepared to seek additional restraints to ensure public safety.

New Legislative Session

The new legislative session will begin in January. I am working with the senior staff, the Administration and the leaders of major fire service organizations to develop the legislative priorities for the Department of Fire Services for the upcoming year. We are examining which initiatives the Department should recommend the Administration sponsor or support.

Bombs and Fireworks

One of the major initiatives this year will concern strengthening existing statutes to clarify the classification of explosive devices and hoax devices and the penalties for them. Another is to develop the ability to dispose of confiscated fireworks and bombs in a speedier fashion, in a way that protects civil rights and removes the threat to public safety posed by storing them until trial.

Facility Expansion

Another top initiative will be to secure funding for a \$20 million proposal to expand the Stow DFS facility. As a training facility the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy functions at maximum capacity and continues to lack dormitories. The Stow campus is strained to encompass the office space needs of the other divisions of the Department of Fire Services – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Hazardous Materials Response and Administrative Services.

We will continue to support a Fire Chiefs initiative to fund the distribution of PASS devices to firefighters statewide.

We have been working on drafting a legislative study order for a commission to examine the effects of mandatory fire training. My chief objective is

continuity and consistency of fire training across the state. The study will include recommendations for implementation strategies for career, call and volunteer firefighters.

HazMat

This past year has been one of transition in funding the Hazardous Materials Response from the bond revenue stream to the operational budget. This coming year, a major objective will be to make a complete and smooth transition from the bond-source funding to the operational budget.

Anti-Terrorism

Hazardous Materials Response has a major role to play in responding to terrorist incidents, particularly biochemical incidents. In order to increase the capability of the regional HazMat teams' to respond to biochemical incidents, we will be developing a plan to ensure that we apply for all available federal funds. ♦

Landlord Sentenced to Jail for Code Violations

As a result of a collaborative investigation by Melrose Fire, Police and Health authorities, utility companies and building and wiring inspectors, a Melrose landlord is going to jail for code violations. While he was stealing utilities from his tenants for his own family, he jeopardized the safety of everyone who lived in the building, including himself.

Fire officials were called to the three-decker at 3 Hunnewell Street by a tenant investigating unusually high utility bills. When the tenant found she was locked out of her own fuse box, the utility company recommended she call the local authorities who found several safety violations with the electrical and gas systems in the building. The landlord was overloading the electrical wires, had crossed connections without protection, had a basement filled with debris, had pried off a temper resistant cap to a

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the workload compared to 1997.

Homicide in Barnstable

On October 14, 1998, Sgt. Kevin McMahon and Tpr. Dave Domingos, of the South Team, responded to scene of a fatal fire in a wooden railroad shed near Rt. 28 in Hyannis. The victim of the fire appeared to be a homeless person. Food, alcoholic beverages and clothes were found amongst the debris. Officer John Sullivan of the Providence Police Department and his accelerant detection canine were called to the scene and it was determined that no accelerant usage was detected. Our own accelerant detection canines were out of state for recertification at the time of the incident. Sgt. James Plath and other State Police Detectives from Barnstable County District Attorney's Office were called to the scene regarding the investigation. The Medical Examiner's report revealed the victim died of multiple stab wounds. Follow-up investigation resulted in the arrest of three other homeless persons for the murder.

Landlord Convicted of Arson

On November 17, 1998, it took the jury just 3 ½ hours to reach its verdict of "guilty" in an arson case that resulted from a fire in Haverhill on August 29, 1997. Tpr. Paul Zipper and other members of the North Team worked exceptionally hard on an intensive investigation which eventually led to the conviction. The Welfare Department had refused to pay the rents for several of the tenants due to numerous code violations in the building. The City of Haverhill had given the landlord notice to clean up the building and was also cited for various violations that included trash and vehicles on the property. The subsequent investigation revealed the landlord set fire to the building because he was unable to collect the rents. The fair market value of the building was \$69,000, far below the \$150,000 insurance claim. The landlord, who is a teacher at the Consentino Middle School in Haverhill, was sentenced on November 30.

Unbelievably, the judge gave the man a two and one-half year suspended sentence.

Tenant arrested in Hampton Inn Fire

On Thursday October 29, 1998, Tpr. Stephen O'Connor of the North Team received a call from the Lawrence Fire Department requesting assistance with a fire investigation at the Hampton Inn on Winthrop Avenue. Tpr. O'Connor met with Deputy Bergeron and Lt. Belida of the Lawrence Fire Department, and also with Det. Levesques of the Lawrence Police Department. Tpr. Paul Horgan and K-9 "Lucy" were called to the scene to search for possible accelerant usage. "Lucy" alerted to two distinct areas at the fire scene. Subsequent investigation by the team of officers led to the arrest of a tenant of the building. Three lighters, a grill butane lighter, a can of butane fuel, a container of lighter fluid and a micro jet hand torch were discovered hidden under the tenant's mattress. The arrested tenant also admitted to two other area fires. ♦

Teach Everyone in the Family These Rules of Safe Candle Use

- #1. Burn candles in the center of a one-foot **circle of safety**, free of anything that can burn.
- #2. Stay in the same room with burning candles; do not leave unattended.
- #3. Burn candles on a non-combustible surface such as a ceramic saucer, or plate.
- #4. Be sure to snuff out candles before falling asleep, going out, or leaving the room.
- #5. Keep candles out of reach of small children and pets.

1997 Candle Fires

Candle Fires Doubled in Past 10 Years

Two hundred thirty-seven (237) fires in residential structures in Massachusetts were caused by candles in 1997. These incidents caused four civilian deaths, 34 civilian injuries, 23 firefighter injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.6 million. Candle fires accounted for almost 3% of the residential structure fires in Massachusetts in 1997.

The following table shows the number of candle fires in residential structures in Massachusetts for 1987 – 1997 by year. The annual number of candle fires has more than doubled since 1987.

Year	# of Fires	Injuries		Deaths		Dollar Loss
		FF	Civ	FF	Civ	
1987	94	13	19	0	1	\$899,050
1988	27	0	1	0	0	\$256,300
1989	97	12	21	0	6	\$1,228,112
1990	88	7	8	0	1	\$476,625
1991	123	21	23	0	0	\$1,507,695
1992	96	10	20	0	1	\$714,426
1993	109	13	13	0	2	\$1,891,644
1994	136	8	20	0	0	\$1,935,371
1995	177	32	31	0	1	\$2,400,551
1996	209	19	33	0	1	\$3,241,913
1997	238	23	34	0	3	\$2,615,165

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION INFORMATION

CPSC Releases Toy Safety Tips for Holiday Shoppers

November 18, 1998 - Release # 99-023

As the holiday season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns gift-givers to keep safety in mind when choosing toys for young children. In 1997 CPSC received reports of 13 toy-related deaths and over 141,000 children who were treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.

"These deaths were not only tragedies, they were also preventable," cautioned CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "It's important for parents and caregivers to take the time to read age-appropriate labels when choosing toys. This information can save a child's life."

CPSC requires labels to be on all toys marketed for children from 3 years old up to 6 years old if the toys pose a choking hazard to children under age 3. These labels tell consumers two critical things: they let them know that a toy is not safe for younger children and why it is not safe. Before CPSC issued these labeling requirements, it was more difficult for consumers to know whether toys they bought for older children could be a danger to younger kids.

CPSC has the most stringent toy safety standards in the world, and toys on store shelves are safe because of the day-to-day compliance work by CPSC. In fiscal year 1998, CPSC obtained 120 toy and children's product recalls involving more than 5.9 million product units to help prevent tragic injuries and deaths. CPSC recently topped the number of units recalled in all of the last fiscal year by obtaining one of the largest toy recalls in the agency's history. In October, CPSC and Fisher-Price recalled about 10 million Power Wheels Ride-On Battery-Powered Vehicles.

Consumers can help prevent toy-related injuries and deaths by always reading labels and being safety conscious. The following tips will help consumers choose appropriate toys this holiday season and all year round:

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- Discard plastic wrappings on toys immediately, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.

By using common sense and these safety suggestions, holiday shoppers can make informed decisions when purchasing toys for children

Products Posing Injury Hazards to Children

Children's Furniture Recalled

September 3, 1998 - Release # 98-164

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), PJ Toys, of New York, N.Y., is recalling about 8,300 units of a variety of children's furniture, sold at Target stores. Some of the paint on

this furniture contains lead, which is toxic if ingested by children. High levels of lead in paint violate the Consumer Product Safety Act. CPSC and PJ Toys are not aware of any illnesses or injuries involving this furniture. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of illness or injury. The recalled furniture was decorated in either a circus or princess theme. Item numbers can be found on the original packaging.

Target stores nationwide sold the recalled furniture from April 1998 through July 1998 for between about \$15 and \$80, depending on the item. Consumers should take these items away from young children immediately and return them to any Target store for a refund. For more information, call PJ Toys at (800) 935-5060 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday, or write to PJ Toys, 230 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10001.

CPSC, Graco Announce Recall to Repair Stationary Entertainers™

September 8, 1998 - Release # 98-171

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Graco Children's Products Inc., of Elverson, Pa., is recalling about 19,000 stationary Entertainers™ for repair. The screw securing the clicker toy to the Entertainer's tray can come out, presenting a choking hazard to young children. CPSC and Graco have received eight reports of children rotating the toy until the screw came out, and either handling the toy's screw or placing it in their mouths. One child started choking on the screw and sustained scratches in the throat, and two others sustained scratches on the face or stomach. Graco will send consumers a free repair kit, consisting of a uniquely redesigned replacement screw and installation instructions. The

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Graco stationary Entertainers involved in this recall are model numbers 4118RA, 4118C and 34429, manufactured between April 24, 1998, and August 6, 1998. The model number and manufacturing date, which is the first six digits of the serial number, are located on a label underneath the Entertainer's tray. The plastic tray is supported by three adjustable legs. A chair, which sits in the center of the unit, swivels around so that the child can play with the eight toys attached to the tray. The clicker toy is made of yellow plastic and has three rounded knobs. "Graco" appears on a yellow label, affixed to the front of the tray. Discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide, including Toys R Us and Sears, sold the Entertainers from April 1998 to September 1998 for about \$59 to \$69. Consumers should remove the clicker toy from the Entertainer immediately. To receive the free repair kit, consumers should call Graco at (800) 281-3676 anytime or write to Customer Affairs, Graco Children's Products Inc., P.O. Box 100, Elverson, PA 19520.

CPSC, TV Guard Inc. Announce Recall to Repair TV Guards

September 28, 1998 - Release # 98-172

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), TV Guard Inc., of Manalapan, N.J., is recalling to repair about 70,000 TV Guards, a plastic shield that attaches to a television to cover control buttons. Children can tip the television over onto themselves by pulling on the TV Guard, and sustain bodily injury. TV Guard Inc. has received three reports of young children suffering injuries when they pulled on the guard and the television fell on top of them. A broken leg, a severely bruised pelvic area, and facial cuts along with a bruised leg and foot have been reported. The TV Guard, measuring about 19 inches long, is made of clear plastic. One part of the

shield fits under the television set and the other aligns itself across the front panel, where the controls are. A white sticker on the shield is labeled in part, "WARNING: Children can tip the television over onto themselves by pulling on the TV Guard...TV Guard Inc." The product was sold in a blue box labeled in part, "TV GUARD... Babies can't push buttons...No more interruptions... Childproof your television with our amazing plastic shield...Made in the USA." Juvenile catalogs and juvenile product stores nationwide sold the TV Guard from April 1993 to September 1998 for about \$10. Consumers should immediately remove the guard from the television and call the company's 24-hour toll-free hotline at (877) TVGUARD. Consumers will receive a free, low-skid pad for use with TV Guard, to help prevent the television set from tipping.

CPSC, Manufacturers Announce Recall of Wooden Bunk Beds

November 10, 1998 - Release # 99-018

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), five bunk bed manufacturers are recalling more than 37,000 wooden bunk beds. The beds have spaces on the top bunk that present potential entrapment and strangulation hazards to young children. The spaces can be large enough for a child's body to pass through, but small enough to entrap a child's head.

CPSC is not aware of any deaths associated with the beds being recalled by these five manufacturers. However, since 1990, 39 children have died from becoming entrapped in wooden or metal bunk beds with similar spaces on the top bunk. Thirty-seven of those children were 3 years old or younger. Since 1994, more than half a million hazardous bunk beds have been recalled.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) voluntary standard for bunk beds requires that, in addition to having guardrails on both sides of the top bunk, any spaces between the guardrail and bed frame, and any spaces in the head and foot boards on the top bunk, be less than 3.5 inches. The manufacturers are participating in this recall to improve the safety of the beds and to meet the requirements of the voluntary standard. The manufacturers also will send consumers permanent labels to be placed on the beds to warn not to put children under the age of 6 on the upper bunk. CPSC and the manufacturers continue to urge parents and caregivers not to put children under the age of 6 on the top bunk.

Consumers should stop using the recalled beds immediately and call the company for a replacement guardrail, retrofit kit or instructions that will eliminate the potential entrapment hazard. The recalled beds were sold through flea markets and in specialty and furniture stores, including Workbench furniture store. If consumers are not sure of the bunk bed manufacturer or have any questions about this recall, they should call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772.

If any identification information is on the bed, it would be the manufacturer's name. If the manufacturer's name is on the bed, it would be on the inside top frame of the bunk bed, such as on the guardrail, head or footboard. It also could be underneath the bottom bunk.

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CPSC, Fisher-Price Recall to Repair Power Wheels® Ride-On Battery-Powered Vehicles

October 22, 1998 - Release # 98-012

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is conducting a voluntary recall involving up to 10 million battery-powered Power Wheels ride-on cars and trucks. The vehicles' electrical components can overheat and cause fires. Children can suffer injuries from fires and house fires can occur. Additionally, wiring problems can prevent the vehicles from stopping.

CPSC and Fisher-Price have received approximately 700 reports of electrical components failing and overheating while the cars and trucks were being ridden, charged, parked or stored. About 150 fires have been reported. Nine children suffered minor burns to the hands, legs, or feet; and up to \$300,000 in property damage to 22 houses and garages have been reported. There have also been 71 reports of vehicles not stopping. Six children suffered bruises, scratches or bumps when their vehicles hit a car, truck, pole, window or fence.

Power Wheels Service Centers will repair the vehicles. These service centers will install the new parts free of charge and give all recalled vehicles a free safety checkup and tune-up.

The recalled Power Wheels cars and trucks have been sold under nearly 100 model names. The Power Wheels logo and the model name are on each vehicle. All models with two batteries are recalled, and certain models with one battery are recalled. The company will help consumers identify if their model is part of the recall. Power Wheels cars and trucks are intended for children 2 to 7 years old, and the vehicles' speed ranges from 1 to 5 m.p.h., depending on the model.



Power Wheels

Toy and mass merchandise stores nationwide sold the cars and trucks since 1984 for about \$70 to \$300.

Consumers should remove the vehicles' batteries right away and not let children use these Power Wheels vehicles until the repair has been made at the service center. To schedule the repair, consumers should call Power Wheels at (800) 977-7800 anytime or access the company's web site at www.powerwheels.com/special/default.htm. Again, the company will help consumers identify if their vehicles are part of the recall.

Power Wheels sold after October 1998 are not involved in this recall.

Model names, including, but not limited to:

12 Volt Battery Models

Barbie Beach Buggy
Barbie Beach Cruiser
Barbie Beach Patrol
Barbie Beach Ranger
Barbie Sports Quad
Barbie Sun Jammer
Big Foot
Coyote
Cycle Sound Suzuki/Quad Racer 900
Extreme Machine
Fire Truck
Ford F-150
High Rider
Jeep Adventure Team
Jeep Commando
Jeep Dune Squad
Jeep Dune Watch
Jeep Enforcer
Jeep Laredo
Jeep Renegade
Jeep Safari
Jeep Wrangler
Kawasaki Ninja ATV
Monster Sound Big Foot
Suzuki Quad Racer
Raider Jeep Sahara
Jeep Sand Blaster
Super Sound Jeep 4x4
Sweetheart
Super Bigfoot
400 SZ

Super 6 Volt Battery Models

Barbie Corvette
Barbie Lamborghini
Barbie Trail Rider
Big Jake
Big Foot
Cartoon Network
Caterpillar
Corvette
Firetruck
Hot Wheels Lamborghini
Kawasaki GPZ
Kmart Racing Truck
Lamborghini
Monster 4x4
Monster Racing Truck
My First Roadster
Qua-Trax
Snake Bite
Starfire
Supervette 350
Suzuki Quad Sport
Turbo Corvette
Speed Sound Lamborghini

Recalls of Products Causing Fires and Burns

CPSC and Sunbeam Products Inc. Announce Recall of Gas Grills With Side Burners

November 5, 1998 - Release # 99-016

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Sunbeam Products Inc., of Neosho Mo., is recalling for repair approximately 80,000 Grillmaster gas grills with side burners. The side burner's propane gas hose can twist up toward the aluminum casting of the grill, causing overheating and melting of the hose. Gas leakage or a fire could result from the hose damage.

Sunbeam Products received one complaint from a consumer who requested a replacement hose due to damage caused from the heat of the grill casting. There have been no reports of injuries associated with these grills.

The recalled grills are black and have a side burner for cooking, similar to a gas-range stove top. The model numbers of the grills are: 56GR8, 560R8, 562D1, 562D9, GC548517, GG546517, GS544417, GS544717, GS546517, GG546537 and GG547517. The complete model numbers can be found on the identification label on the back of the grill, and on the assembly instructions and parts list. The word, "GRILLMASTER" is written on the front of these grills.

Mass merchandise stores, such as Bradlees, Caldor, the Home Depot, Service Merchandise and Wal-Mart sold the grills nationwide from 1996 through July 1998 for about \$200 to \$250.

Consumers should stop using the recalled grills immediately and call Sunbeam toll-free at (888) 892-8150 anytime to receive a free retrofit kit.

The retrofit kit contains a wire bracket guard and instructions for easy installation that will correctly position the side burner's propane gas hose.

In March 1998, Sunbeam Products recalled grills with model numbers GG 461 EPB, GG 560 EPB, HG 560 EPB and GG 560 EPBS because of a similar hose placement hazard.

CPSC, MacKenzie-Childs Ltd. Announce Recall of Paper Candle Shades

September 1, 1998 - Release # 98-162

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), MacKenzie-Childs Ltd., of Aurora, N.Y., is recalling about 42,000 paper candle shades. Use of the paper shade with a candle presents a fire hazard. MacKenzie-Childs has received three reports of the paper shades igniting after contacting the flame of the accompanying candle. There is one report of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. The paper shades are decorated with various colors and designs, beads and ribbons. "MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd" is printed inside the shades. The shades measure about 5 inches high, 2 inches wide on top and 6 inches wide on bottom. The shades are designed to sit on top of a candle with the use of a metal candle follower. The top of the candle follower supports the shade, and the bottom sits on top of the candle and moves down the length of the candle as it melts. Specialty gift and department stores nationwide sold the paper shades from January 1992 through April 1998 for about \$38 to \$95.

Consumers should immediately stop using the paper shades with candles. Consumers should return the original paper shade to the store where purchased to receive a free, replacement paper shade that is fire-resistant. For more information, consumers can call MacKenzie-Childs at (800) 640-0488 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

EDT Monday through Friday.

CPSC, Electrolux Announce Recall to Repair Top-Cord Cords Vacuum Cleaners

November 10, 1998 - Release # 99-017

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Electrolux, L.L.C., of Atlanta, Ga., is recalling about 226,000 Ponytail Top-Cord Cords Handle Upright Vacuum Cleaners. The power cords on these vacuums extend out of the very top of the handle, and the cord is often used as an extension of the handle. The power cord can break inside the handle or the casing around the cord can break, and cause shocks or burns to the user's hand. Even when there is no apparent breaking of the casing around the cord, these vacuums can still cause injuries.

Electrolux is aware of at least 75 reports of the cords on these vacuums breaking or the casing around the cord exposing wires. About half of these incidents reportedly resulted in burns or shocks to users. Of these reports, there were 11 serious injuries which included consumers suffering second or third degree burns, shocks, or a combination of these injuries.

The Ponytail vacuums were sold under the following names: Genesis, Prolux S/R, Genesis LX, Prolux Warehouse, Genesis LXE, Regency, Prolux, Special Edition, Prolux Plus. Only Electrolux upright vacuums with the cord coming out of the very top of the handle are included in this recall. "Electrolux" and the model name are written on each vacuum.

Most of these vacuums were sold through direct sales and retail stores, including Sam's Club, Service Merchandise and Macy's, between May 1991 and September 1993 for between \$150 and \$550, depending on the model and accessories. Some

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vacuums were sold directly to corporate customers.

Consumers should immediately stop using these vacuums, and return them to an Electrolux store for a free repair. The handle on the vacuum will be replaced with a new model handle. For more information and to find the Electrolux store nearest to you, call Electrolux at (888) 887-2959 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. EST Monday through Friday

CPSC, Firms Announce Recalls of Entertainment Units, Soldering Irons

November 16, 1998 - Release # 99-022

The following product safety recalls were conducted by firms in cooperation with the CPSC. Entertainment Units - AIG Designs Holding Inc., of Alpharetta, Ga., is recalling about 1,200 entertainment units. The units have either black or white finishes, and glass-front doors. They were sold as three-piece sets, with two side piers and one connecting bridge, or as individual pieces. The side piers are 79 inches high and 24 inches wide, and the bridge is 38 inches wide. Sears stores nationwide sold the entertainment units from October 1997 to March 1998. The three-piece set cost about \$999. Each side pier cost about \$450 individually and the bridge piece cost about \$200. **PROBLEM:** The light fixture in these units can have exposed wiring, which could cause a fire or cause serious shock or electrocution. **INJURIES/INCIDENTS:** CPSC and AIG are not aware of any injuries or incidents caused by these units. **WHAT TO DO:** Consumers should unplug the light fixtures immediately and call Sears to schedule a free, in-home service visit to replace the fixtures. To schedule a service visit or for more information, call Sears at (800) 215-9167 anytime. **PRODUCT:** Soldering Iron - Custom Accessories Inc. of Niles, Ill., is recalling about 20,000

Electro-Tek soldering irons. These soldering irons were sold under the Electro-Tek brand name, and have part number 10764W. Both the brand name and part number are written only on the packaging. The soldering iron has a black plastic handle and is packaged on a white card with black, yellow and red accents. There is a silver label on the soldering irons with "UL" written in red. They were sold exclusively in Walmart stores nationwide between October 1998 and November 1998 for about \$5. **PROBLEM:** The internal connections in the soldering iron are not insulated, presenting a shock and electrocution hazard. **INCIDENTS/INJURIES:** None reported. **WHAT TO DO:** Consumers should stop using the soldering iron immediately and return it to Walmart for a refund or a replacement soldering iron. For more information, consumers should call Custom Accessories Inc. toll free at (800) 962-6676 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CST Monday through Friday. Electro-Tek soldering irons with different part numbers are not affected by this recall.

Kolcraft, Playskool Double Reward for Return of Recalled Portable Cribs

November 17, 1998

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Kolcraft Enterprises Inc. and Playskool are offering a \$120 Child Saver Reward for the return of each Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib. These cribs were recalled in 1993, yet two children died in the cribs this summer, a New Jersey infant and a Chicago toddler.

The cribs, which were manufactured by Kolcraft from 1990 through 1992, have rotating top rail hinges. These top rails can collapse, entrapping children and suffocating them. In all, six children have died in Playskool Travel-Lite portable cribs. Despite a nation-

wide effort over the past five years to alert the public about this recall, some of the 11,000 cribs originally sold could still be in use. To get these products back, Kolcraft and Playskool are doubling the reward for each returned crib from \$60 to \$120. In addition to the \$120 reward, Kolcraft and Playskool, a subsidiary of Hasbro, are taking further steps to get the word out, including mailings to daycare centers, notices in new products and posting of details regarding the reward on Hasbro's web site at www.hasbro.com.

CPSC, Siemens Energy & Automation Inc. Announce Recall of GFCI Circuit Breakers Used with Hot Tubs and Spas

October 7, 1998 - Release # 99-005

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Siemens Energy & Automation Inc. of Alpharetta, Ga., is voluntarily recalling about 144,000 2-pole ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) circuit breakers, typically used with hot tubs and spas to prevent shock or electrocution. These GFCI circuit breakers could overheat and lose their ability to prevent injury or death. Siemens is not aware of any injuries involving these circuit breakers. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury. The 2-pole GFCI circuit breakers involved in this recall carry the Siemens or Murray brand name. The face of the black plastic units have a large, white button with the word "TEST" molded into it. The circuit breaker's rating is printed in white at each end of the handle's horizontal bar. A product identification sticker is affixed to the face of each unit near the "TEST" button. The word "Siemens" or "Murray" will be found at the top of the sticker, and the phrase "2 Pole Unit" is printed on the bottom of the sticker. Only 2-pole units are being recalled. The GFCI

Continued on next page

circuit breakers were sold primarily to electrical contractors and hot tub manufacturers through independent wholesale electrical distributors. A small percentage were sold to contractors and consumers through home improvement stores. They were sold nationwide from March 1996 through April 1998 for about \$100. Consumers should switch the recalled GFCI circuit breaker to the "off" position immediately to disconnect the power supply. Consumers should call Siemens at (800) 443-2123 between 7 a.m. and 12 midnight EST Monday through Friday or between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. EST Saturday and Sunday to arrange to have qualified personnel replace the breakers at no charge to the consumer. Consumers should not attempt to remove the GFCI circuit breaker because high voltage can cause death or serious injury. Consumers should not use their hot tubs and spas until a replacement breaker has been installed.

CPSC, Royal Centurian/Sovereign Announce Recall of Portable Heaters

October 7, 1998 - Release # 99-004

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Royal Centurian Inc. and its affiliate Royal Sovereign Corp., both of Englewood, N.J., are voluntarily recalling about 39,300 portable heaters. The mechanism which rotates the heater side-to-side can wear through the insulation of electrical wiring inside the heater's base. In addition, some of the connections between the electrical wires and other components inside of the heater may be faulty. Either of these conditions can result in a fire. Royal Centurian/Sovereign have received 13 reports of fires involving the heaters, which may have caused the fires. The fires resulted in about \$70,000 in property damage. No injuries have been reported. Only Royal Sovereign model RST-1200

portable heaters with serial numbers beginning with 92, 93, 94, 95 or 96 are being recalled. These heaters use a fan to force the heated air into the room, and they rotate side-to-side to distribute the heated air throughout the room. These units are constructed of black plastic in a cylindrical shape with a diameter of 7 inches and a height of 13 inches. The units are labeled in part, "RS...CERAMIC HEATER AUTO THERMOSTAT CONTROL...120v, 60 hz, 1500 w...MODEL NO. RST-1200 ...Royal Sovereign Corp...UL LISTED AIR HEATER...MADE IN KOREA." The serial number is located underneath the heater's base. Home building supply and discount stores nationwide, including Hechingers, Builders' Square, Walmart and Montgomery Ward, sold the heaters from January 1992 through September 1997 for about \$99. Consumers should stop using these heaters immediately and call Royal Centurian Inc. toll-free at (888) 347-2757 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday for instructions on returning the heaters for free repair.

CPSC, Limited Too Inc. Announce Recall of Children's Satin Sleepwear

September 16, 1998 - Release # 98-169

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Limited Too Inc., of Columbus, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling about 390,000 children's satin pajama sets. The pajamas fail to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear. The standards require sleepwear to be flame resistant, and if the fabric ignites, the flame must self-extinguish. Failure to meet the flammability standards presents a risk of serious burn injuries to children. Limited Too has not received any reports of injuries from these pajama sets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury. The

satin pajama sets involved in this recall are available in girl's sizes 6 through 14. The pajamas are woven, 100 percent polyester with a satin finish. The garments are two-piece pullover or front-button styles with sleeveless, short or long sleeved tops and bottoms, available in a variety of colors and patterns. The sleepwear is labeled "made in Hong Kong," "Macau," "China" or "Sri Lanka." Limited Too stores nationwide sold the pajamas from December 1995 through July 1998 for about \$15 to \$39. Parents should immediately stop their children from wearing these pajama sets and return them to a Limited Too store for a full refund. For more information about this recall, consumers should call Limited Too at (800) 934-4497 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday. Consumers also can write to the company at 3885 Morse Road, Columbus, OH 43219. This recall involves only 100 percent polyester, woven satin sleepwear sold from December 1995 through July 1998. All other sleepwear sold prior to these dates and sleepwear currently being offered by Limited Too is not subject to this recall.

The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. to Pay \$112,000 Civil Penalty for Selling Flammable Bathrobes

November 12, 1998 - Release # 99-019

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced today that The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. (Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman), of Chestnut Hill, Mass., has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$112,500 to settle allegations that it violated both the federal Flammable Fabrics Act and the Consumer Product Safety Act by selling flammable bathrobes.

CPSC alleges that between 1988 and 1997, The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. sold or offered for sale approximately 6,500 EGERIA terry cloth bathrobes

Two Day Public Fire Education Conference Attended by 250

Two hundred and fifty fire and life safety educators from many walks of life attended the two-day, fourth annual public education conference held in Worcester on Sept. 29-30, 1998.

Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award

On September 29, the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented by State Fire Marshal Coan to Teri Charpentier, Central Chapter of the American Red Cross for her work in fire education for juvenile firesetters.

27 Different Workshops Offered

During the two-days 27 substantive workshops were presented on topics ranging from Kids, Bombs and the Internet, to Leveraging Community Resources, to teaching Water and Ice Safety, to the new Risk Watch Injury Prevention Curriculum. The second day had a special focus on senior fire safety and there were a dozen workshops on how to reach seniors and those who work with them with vital fire safety messages and how the fire service can listen and learn effective

strategies from seniors themselves and other community partners.

Keynote Speaker Wows Audience

On September 30, Denver Fire Chief Richard L. Gonzales delivered an amazing, motivational speech on the past and future of the fire service and the role public education plays in that future.

Smoke Detector PSAs Unveiled

On the first day at lunch, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan unveiled a smoke detector public service announcement campaign. The three television PSAs were produced by Cramer Productions who donated thousands of dollars in production expenses to produce these excellent spots on smoke detectors. The PSAs were produced as part of a Department of Public Health grant program on smoke detectors called - Fire Safe Families the Residential Fire Injury Prevention Project. ♦



*Denver Fire Chief
Richard L. Gonzales*



4th Annual Fire and Safety Public Education Conference

DFS Fire Prevention Week Display

By Shawn Lerner

On October 6 and 7 during Fire Prevention Week 1998, the Department of Fire Services presented a display in the lobby of One Ashburton Place, Boston. The display contained material on fire safety and prevention tips. Some of the more popular information pamphlets taken were on smoke detectors, exit drills in the home (E.D.I.T.H.), winter holiday safety, high-rise building safety, Halloween safety tips, and fire extinguishers. Information was also distributed on the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Numerous videos were shown throughout the day, but the one that generated the most discussion was *FirePower*.

During the two days of the informational display, many state employees and visitors stopped by to ask questions of the DFS staff, watch part of a video and to take written information away with them. The key to effective fire prevention is good public education. MFA Instructor Jack Cochrane, Amy Uzdavinis, Research Analyst, and Shawn Lerner, MFA Support Staff, spent time during the two days answering questions and representing the Department. ♦



DFS Booth for Fire Prevention Week

that were highly flammable. CPSC also alleges that The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. failed to report in a timely manner the flammability risk presented by the robes. CPSC's investigation has revealed that Neiman Marcus had received five reports of bathrobes igniting, resulting in two minor burn injuries, before it reported to CPSC.

In agreeing to settle this matter, The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. denies that it violated either the federal Flammable Fabrics Act or the Consumer Product Safety Act. The Neiman Marcus Group Inc. voluntarily recalled the EGERIA bathrobes in March 1997. For more information about the recall, consumers should call Neiman Marcus at (800) 685-6695 or Bergdorf Goodman at (800) 218-4918.

About the CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov> or via Internet gopher services at gopher.cpsc.gov. Consumers can report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov. ♦

Hazardous Materials Response Program

The Hazardous Materials Response Division has participated in a joint training exercise with the State Police and the Drug Enforcement Administration demonstrating the capabilities of the Hazardous Materials Response Teams to assist these agencies in response to a clandestine drug lab investigation. Members from each of the six HazMat districts participated in the training session which was extremely successful.

Since the last *DFS Quarterly*, the Hazardous Materials Response Division of the Department of Fire Services has responded to 12 incidents. 11 were Tier 1 – Hazard Risk Assessment and 1 was Tier 2, Entry and Mitigation. The break down by response district was, District 1 – 3, District 2 – 2, District 3 – 0, District 4 – 0, District 5 – 1, and District 6 – 6.

The following is a list of the locations of the incidents:

08-22-98	District 6	Amesbury	Tier 1	PCBOil
08-24-98	District 6	Salisbury	Tier 1	PCB's
09-01-98	District 1	Mansfield	Tier 1	Mercury
09-03-98	District 6	Amesbury	Tier 1	Gasoline - Canceled
09-07-98	District 6	Amesbury	Tier 2	Oil
09-30-98	District 6	Winchendon	Tier 1	Oil
10-03-98	District 1	Lakeville	Tier 1	Canceled
10-05-98	District 1	Dennisport	Tier 1	Several Chemicals – Acids
10-06-98	District 5	New Marlborough	Tier 1	Diesel Fuel
10-10-98	District 2	Malden	Tier 1	Muriatic Acid
10-14-98	District 6	Haverhill	Tier 1	Canceled
10-28-98	District 2	Everett	Tier 1	Canceled

Goodwill Ambassadors

Everett Pierce, Programs Manager

In September, four businessmen from Osaka, Japan representing major gas and transportation companies came to the Department of Fire Services to observe our Gas Training Facilities. They were most interested in how we trained our fire-fighters to deal with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) incidents. Bob Zalewski and Ted Maiorana met with the group and took them for a tour of the facility. The group was so impressed with their initial visit that they revised their schedule to return the next day for live fire evolutions.

Our thanks to our good will ambassadors, Bob Zalewski and Ted Maiorana, and also to everyone at the Department of Fire Services for their help in distinguishing us as a world class training facility! ♦



Everett Pierce, Ted Maiorana and Japanese Guests

S.A.F.E. PROGRAM

Young Heroes

Proving Public Education Works

In the first four years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program, and the fourth year has just started, there have been 46 so-called "young heroes." A young hero is a youngster who learned fire safety in school and then was able to apply that knowledge in a real-life emergency. Firefighter-educators hope that their students will never have to use the information they teach, but know from sad experience that many will. Knowing what to do in an emergency has meant the difference between life and death for many youngsters and their grateful families. Here are the stories of some recent young heroes.

Graeme Milley - Chatham

On October 25, 1998 while playing in the woods near his home, Graeme Milley came upon a group of children playing with fire. The children attempted to convince 5-year old Graeme Milley not to tell anyone about their activities using a toy gun and spent construction cartridges, telling him they were real bullets. Graeme left the area as the children continued to set brush on fire. He went directly to a neighbor's house and brought the 18-year old neighbor to the site to ensure the fire was extinguished. Later he told his parents. Graeme learned about fire safety from the Chatham S.A.F.E. Program at the Rocking Unicorn preschool.

David Morrision - Dracut

On September 7, 1998, thirteen-year old David Morrision used a 1A-2BC dry chemical extinguisher from his home to put out a fire on a neighbor's rear deck. A gas grill fire had ignited the deck and the exterior wood siding. He told firefighters that he had learned how to use an extinguisher properly

and to keep calm through the Dracut S.A.F.E. Program.

Nina Calvanese - East Longmeadow

On October 16, 1998, 14-year old Nina Calvanese of South Hadley was babysitting for a 3-year old and a one-year old in East Longmeadow. She was bathing the youngest when the smoke detectors sounded. Smoke from the cellar was filling the first floor. She evacuated the children, reported the fire and turned off the oil burner switch (at her uncle's direction whom she called next.) She received her fire safety training in the 2nd and 3rd grades in East Longmeadow. The fire department credits her with preventing injuries and limiting the damage from the oil burner blow-back.

Melanie Rose Feinberg - Holden

On October 6, 1998, Mrs. Feinberg and her 8-year old daughter Melanie were in the kitchen when a grease fire started on the stovetop. While Mrs. Feinberg attempted to put out the fire, Melanie grabbed the cordless phone, went in the foyer near the garage and called 9-1-1 for help. She calmly reported the fire. Mrs. Feinberg was treated for smoke inhalation. Melanie and her mother credit the Holden S.A.F.E. Program for teaching the third grader how to respond correctly.

Papa Gino's Sponsor Open Houses

Papa Gino's Restaurants sponsored open houses at local fire houses during Fire Prevention Week for the fourth year in a row. This has been a great public/private partnership. The pizza draws people to the fire house, and knowing that the corporate support will provide a "draw" encourages firefighters to host the open houses. Papa Gino's also provides banners, educational handout material developed in conjunction with

215 Fourth Year Grants Awarded

Two hundred and fifteen Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Grant applications were received and reviewed for Fiscal Year 1999. FY '99 Grant award letters were sent out during Fire Prevention Week, the first full week in October. These 215 communities are a 10% increase over last fiscal year and represent 60% of the fire departments in the state.

Every community should have their money in hand by now. If a community has not (and there are still a few) there funds yet, make sure that a signed contract has been returned with the revised budget if it was required, and that if there was an FY '98 Grant that the FY'98 End-of-Year Report was filed. ♦

Training for Public Fire Educators

The first week-long **Public Fire and Safety Education** class was offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in October. The second one is scheduled for March 8-12, 1999 at the Stow campus. **Public Education Presentation**, a two-day class for assistant instructors or those who cannot attend the week-long class, will be held December 15-16, 1998 in Springfield. Another one is scheduled for April, 1999, in Plymouth. ♦

the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the National Fire Protection Association, and promote fire safety in the restaurants during October. Thousands of people have turned out to over 60 open houses. This gives the public the chance to see the inside of the fire station, learn a little about fire safety, meet the firefighters who serve them in a non-emergency situation and to learn about the changing job of the firefighter. Firefighters do so much more than fight fires today. ♦

Firefighter of the Year Award

The 9th Annual Firefighter of the Year award ceremony held in historic Faneuil Hall in Boston on October 23, 1998. Public Safety Secretary A. David Rodham emceed the program which included a media presentation by Norwood Firefighter James Flaherty, a procession with the Worcester Fire Brigade Pipes and Drums, posting of colors by Honor Guards from the Boston, Chelsea, and Fitchburg Fire Departments, singing of the National Anthem by West Barnstable Fire Chief John Jenkins, and presentations to the award recipients by Governor Argeo Paul Cellucci.

Fitchburg Lt. Gregg Normandin was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Medal of Honor for his rescue of a young boy. On April 3, 1998, the Fitchburg Fire Department re-

sponded to a fire at 88 Marshall Street. A woman came running down the street screaming that her child was still inside the apartment. Lt. Normandin entered the extremely hot and smoky apartment and found 3-year old Joseph Alvarez under a bed, unconscious and not breathing. Lt. Normandin immediately carried the child down three stories to the street into a waiting ambulance where oxygen was administered. If you watched the television news that evening, the clip showed Joseph Alvarez placing the medal around his own neck first and Governor Cellucci talking the little boy into giving up the medal to Lt. Normandin! Joseph Alvarez received a toy fire truck; however, as he was escorted from the stage, he was still looking longingly at the Medal of Honor around Lt. Normandin's neck! ♦

MFA Stars in Anti-Smoking PSA

On November 10, 1998 the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy was the site for the filming of a public service announcement that makes the connection between cigarettes and fires. Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires. This PSA is a joint effort between the Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control Program and the Department of Fire Services.

The film crew turned the MFA burn building into a multi-unit apartment building which looked like the real thing during night shooting. MFA Instructor Fred LeBlanc served as the safety officer for all the fires that were set in the burn building and was at side of the director, "Scooter," during the ten hours of filming. Fred recently served as safety officer for the filming of an interactive CD-ROM program

for arson investigators made at the Criminal Justice Training Facility in New Braintree.

The Stow Fire Department, under the leadership of Deputy Joe Bosselait, provided the real-life firefighters and EMTs. Although they squirted a lot of water, they did not have to extinguish any fires. The fire was needed for the next take. ♦



Mary Sharizj, Producer and State Fire Marshal Coan

Family Fire Safety Day Houghton's Pond

The third successful Family Fire Safety Day, co-sponsored by the Metropolitan District Commission, was held at their lovely Houghton's Pond Reservation. Hundreds of families visited the reservation, went through the fire safety house, saw modern and antique apparatus, listened to fire safety songs, participated in a fire safety play, watched Cinder and Sparkles the fire safety clowns, and went on a get to know the environment walk.

The Houghton's Pond event is one of the avenues for promoting the



Cinder and Sparkles the Fire Clowns

S.A.F.E. Program to the public. Thank you to all the S.A.F.E.rs who participated with their demonstrations, props, talent and creativity to making a fun day for the public to learn a little about fire safety and the S.A.F.E. Program. ♦

1999 Summer Camp Dates Set

DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp will be held July 20-23, 1999. Look for more information after the first of the year.

Accountability Systems

Accountability is the responsibility of everyone at an emergency incident. Many systems have been developed to help the incident commander with accountability of firefighters. Departments have to experiment through training and implementation to develop the best system for their department.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy gives firefighters the opportunity to train under several systems. Structural Fire Fighting Practices exposes the firefighter to multiple systems during the training day. The Firefighters are assigned to attack crews during the morning briefing. The firefighter is then briefed on the different forms of accountability that will be incorporated into the training day.

Tags: Firefighters are issued tags in accordance with their attack team. Attack team #1 is issued tags starting with 10 for the Attack team leader and 11-15 for the firefighters assigned to the attack team.

Riding List: The attack teams list is then entered onto a crew list. The List is given to the Incident Commander. The lists are used to track the crews on the fireground.

Radio role call: During the training evolutions the Incident Commander and Outside Safety will conduct radio calls with the team leaders as to their status. This can be done on a regular basis, for safety purposes and during the evacuations of sectors of the fireground.

During the training day the firefighter will have had the opportunity to see a variety of the accountability systems. This gives the firefighter not only a chance to use the system that they may use with their own local department, but an opportunity to see what mutual aid departments may use. ♦

Mutual Goals Through "Mutual Training"

Fire Departments have become creative in their approach to meet the minimum training requirements set forth in NFPA 1001. Many departments hire new firefighters every year and training seems to be one of the most difficult aspects of the process. Firefighters have mandatory First Responder, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Hazardous Materials Operations training. All this training and the firefighter may have not had any fire training. NFPA 1001 is a minimum consensus standard that gives fire departments a benchmark of where other departments train their personnel. Most fire departments would find it very difficult to train just 3-4 firefighters to this standard a year.

Fire District 7 formed a training committee and broke their Fire District into different sectors to help meet the NFPA 1001, Firefighter I standard. One sector included the following communities: Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Webster. These communities formed a smaller sub-committee to reach their objectives. The departments met to formulate a schedule, discuss the objectives set forth by NFPA 1001 and create a list of instructors. The Firefighter I module topics were integrated into a schedule and locations were assigned. The training locations would rotate between all the communities. This would allow the instructors to teach in their own community and would give the firefighter a broader picture of the fire service. The firefighters first meeting was a short orientation where the firefighters were introduced to the instructors, the syllabus was discussed and the majority chose a meeting night. Currently the classes are on Tuesday evenings from 1830 – 2200 hours with training sessions on a Saturday for longer practical days. The instructor teaching the subject designed the quizzes which are given every week on

the previous week's material. The program began in September, 1998 and has been working very well.

As departments work more closely together during actual emergency incidents, it is essential that departments train together as well. The mutual training allows firefighters to see outside the boundaries of their own department. The firefighter is also given the opportunity to work with a wide variety of firefighting equipment and apparatus. This is just one of many stories that shows how mutual goals are achieved through joint training. For further information on this program or other similar ones in this state, contact Fred LeBlanc Firefighter I/II Coordinator at (978) 567-3216. ♦

OSFM Division Director

Continued from page 1

him inside and outside the agency.

Todd started his career as a laborer in the explosives industry and most recently was the general manager and safety manager for a large drilling and blasting contractor. He has held nearly every position in between. Todd has experience in quarrying, trenching, construction, blasting, and in the storage and transportation of explosives. ♦

Industrial Office Seminars

March 24, 1999
Health Care Fire Safety

April 21, 1999
Industrial Fire Safety

May 26, 1999
Hazardous Waste Operations and
Emergency Response Refresher

June 24, 1999
Hotel/Motel Fire Safety

For more information please contact the Industrial Program at the Mass. Firefighting Academy at (978) 567-3208. ♦

Recruit Class # 126



Forty-one students graduating represented the communities of Bedford, Belmont, Beverly, Bourne, Chelsea, Dracut, Franklin, Greenfield, Lexington, Lincoln, Ludlow, Methuen, Middleboro, Natick, Plainville, Stoughton, Swampscott, Townsend, Watertown, West Springfield, Westfield, and Whitman. Also graduating was student Susan McCombe from Ludlow who had returned to complete training that was interrupted by an injury during Class # 125.

The graduation had a special note for this class as fellow recruit firefighter Paul Lampson from Ludlow played the bagpipes for his classmates during their march in and their dismissal from the ceremonies. Jeff Sirois, the guest speaker for the graduation ceremony brought the message of how recruit training, although difficult, pays off. Jeff was a graduate of recruit Class #92 in 1990, and as a member of the Beverly Fire Department, was involved in a difficult scuba recovery of victims in a fishing boat tragedy. Jeff spoke about the obstacles encountered during this difficult situation and how the preparation from recruit training helped him

through. This was a special moment for Jeff for other reasons as well. Five graduates in Class # 126 were from his home fire department (Beverly) one of whom was also his cousin.

Class president Curtis Hall delivered the serious message of how the class came together through some difficult periods in their training. In addition he also took the opportunity to make some tongue in cheek comments about some of the more humorous things that happened during the class to his classmates, and even a lighthearted look at some of the instructors. In addition to the class plaque and group photo that has become a tradition, the class also presented the Academy with a print symbolizing teamwork to be hung in classroom 128 as an inspiration to future recruits.

As usual, the ceremony had many moving moments when relatives of firefighter recruits assisted with the presentation of diplomas. You cannot help but be thoughtful as you watch the recruit class take their first real step forward on a long and rewarding career in the fire service. ♦

Peter Lamb, Recruit Coordinator

Boulder Buster

On October 6, 1998 the Office of the State Fire Marshal sent information to all heads of fire departments regarding *Boulder Busters*. This is new technology being used by the blasting industry. The Boulder Buster equipment is used to fracture large rock in closely confined spaces. Initially a hole is drilled into the rock's surface and filled with water. Then, a shotgun shell is used to initiate an acoustic shock wave through the water. The tremendous force generated in this manner causes the rock to fracture.

While Boulder Buster may have advantages (i.e. it is advertised to minimize flyrock, reduce vibration and noise), it is not without danger in its use and handling. Based on a review of current state law and regulation, and because this technology utilizes a shotgun shell for initiation, an explosive is used in the conduct of blasting and as such is regulated by 527 CMR 13.00.

Accordingly, the only individual who may use a Boulder Buster is a licensed blaster who has obtained all necessary permits (use and handling and permit to blast) as required by law.

The use of this equipment is regulated by 527 CMR 13.00 and must be complied with in all respects. Under no circumstances should a non-licensed individual be allowed to operate this equipment. ♦

The DFS Quarterly is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to:

Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The DFS Quarterly is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.

BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations recently voted to adopt several new amendments to 527 CMR, the State Fire Code. A brief explanation of the regulations and the changes that were made to them follows:

527 CMR 1.00: Administration and Enforcement. This regulation governs the administration and the enforcement of all of 527 CMR: Fire Prevention Regulations. 527 CMR 1.01(3): Alternative Methods and Materials is amended by adding language specifying the head of the fire department as the proper authority to grant approval for alternative methods of compliance and also requiring the head of the fire department to maintain proper records of such approvals. 527 CMR 1.04: Permits is amended by adding the term "Fire Protection System" to the list of permits required under 527 CMR. Effective November 27, 1998.

527 CMR 2.00: Fireworks. This regulation governs the use, manufacture, transportation and storage of fireworks. 527 CMR 2.06(2) is amended by adding an additional type of mortar allowed in fireworks displays. Effective November 13, 1998.

527 CMR 6.00: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers & Systems. This regulation provides the minimum standards for LP-Gas systems for the protection and safety of the public at large. 527 CMR 6.02: Scope is amended by updating it to the current reference of NFPA 58 1998. 527 CMR 6.04: Approval of Equipment is amended by changing authority to approve LP-Gas installations from the State Fire Marshal to the Head of the Fire Department. 527 CMR 6.05: Installation of Equipment – Compliance Requirements is amended by updating to the current reference of NFPA 58 1998. 527 CMR 6.07: Installation Standards and Procedures is amended by updating to the current reference of NFPA 58 1998. Effective

November 27, 1998.

527 CMR 9.00: Tanks & Containers.

This regulation applies to the design, construction, installation, testing and maintenance of tanks and containers. The intent is to protect the public safety and welfare from the dangers of fire and/or explosion due to tank or container leakage of flammable and combustible liquids. 527 CMR 9.02: Definitions is amended by changing the definitions of Zone A and Zone B. 527 CMR 9.05(G): Upgrading of Existing Underground Storage Tank Systems is amended by adding further options for compliance of leak detectors. Effective November 27, 1998.

527 CMR 10.00: Fire Prevention, General Provisions. This regulation governs fire prevention in miscellaneous areas such as places of assembly, open burning, bonfires, etc. 527 CMR 10.01: Definitions is amended by adding the new definition of Fire Protection System. 527 CMR 10.03(13): Hazards to Means of Egress is amended by adding a section (e) regarding means of escape. 527 CMR 10.03(14): Powered Industrial Trucks is amended by moving the existing 10.03(14) to 10.03(16) and putting new language regarding compliance with NFPA 505. 527 CMR 10.03(15): Fire Protection Systems is amended by adding language requiring the obtaining of a permit for the installation of fire protection systems. 527 CMR 10.24(2): Miscellaneous Provisions is rescinded. Effective November 27, 1998.

527 CMR 12.00: Massachusetts Electrical Code. The regulation establishes a minimum standard of public safety with respect to the installation of electrical equipment and conductors. This action amends 527 CMR 12.00 in its entirety by updating it to keep current with the national electrical code. Effective November 13, 1998.

527 CMR 24.00: Fire Warning

Systems Installed in Buildings within the Commonwealth. The purpose of this regulation is to provide basic minimum standards for the installation, operation and maintenance of automatic smoke and heat detectors that are required in certain buildings pursuant to M.G.L. c. 22, s. 14 and M.G.L. c. 148, s. 10 & 28. The installation of these devices is intended primarily for the protection of life by indicating abnormal conditions and secondarily to summon assistance. 527 CMR 24.02: Scope is amended by updating the reference from the 1993 edition to the 1996 edition. 527 CMR 24.07: Installation is amended by updating the reference from NFPA 72A to NFPA 72. Effective November 27, 1998.

527 CMR 49.00: Appendices. This regulation contains a listing of all of the standards referenced in 527 CMR, the effective date of the standard, the promulgating agency of the standard and the section(s) of 527 CMR that refer to the standard. 527 CMR 49.01: Appendix A is amended by updating the references to NFPA 10, 58, 72, 96 and 505. Effective November 27, 1998.

If you have any questions regarding these amendments, or if you would like copies of the full text of them, please contact Maura Ware, Legal Counsel to the Board. ♦

One Building Official's Experience In Code Enforcement

The 6th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code requires that all existing 1- and 2-family dwellings in which renovations include the addition of a new bedroom, the entire dwelling be retrofitted with a household fire warning system (smoke detectors) which complies with the code for new construction. This includes the addition of hard-wired interconnected

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Code Enforcement

Continued from previous page

smoke detectors in each bedroom. In developing new provisions such as this, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) is required to consider cost implications on the construction community. That task becomes particularly onerous when the costs are compared to life safety improvements. At the code change hearings, much of the debate and testimony was centered on this very issue. The BBRS recently received this letter from Mr. Anthony Patillo, the Northhampton Building Commissioner (the letter is reprinted in edited form):

September 8, 1998

Recently, the Northhampton Fire Department called my home at 11:45 p.m. requesting my assistance at a structure fire in progress at a single-family dwelling.

The building itself was an existing single story wood framed one-family dwelling. The owner had recently applied for a building permit to add a second floor, which included the addition of a new bedroom. The building was being occupied during the addition/renovations. Under the circumstance, the current sixth edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code requires that the entire existing building smoke detection system be upgraded to meet the requirements for new construction. This was a difficult pill to swallow for the electrical contractor at the building permit application stage where he bemoaned the additional cost to the homeowner. Prior to the renovation, the system was comprised of single station (non-interconnected) battery operated smoke detectors. The new system, which was operational at the time of the fire, comprised of hard-wired, interconnected detectors placed outside of the sleeping areas, at the stairways, and one inside each bedroom.

At the fire scene, the homeowner described to me how the family went to bed for the evening while the clothes dryer was left running. The family was awakened by the smoke detector system. The fire department arrived at the scene within three minutes of receiving the call and used only 50 gallons of water to suppress the fire. More importantly, everyone escaped from the building unharmed. The scenario could have been entirely different had the new smoke detector system not been in place at the time of the fire. Damage to the property could have been more extensive and worse, and lives could have been lost.

The cause of the fire was determined to be ignition of lint, which had built-up in the electric clothes dryer vent.

So this to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, you got this right and it's the right thing for the citizens of the Commonwealth. By the way, the homeowner thanked me that evening.

Anthony Patillo, Northampton Building Commissioner

The letter says it all...thanks Tony. ♦

Critical Incident Stress Management

T. Andrew Reardon

With the support of the State Fire Marshal, members of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, the clergy and the mental health community have been meeting for the last two years to develop a strategy to assure that every fire department within the Commonwealth has access to a Critical Incident Stress Management Team. Within the next couple of months a protocol will be issued explaining when and how a stress team can and should be activated.

Gone forever are the days when firefighters are told to simply "deal with it." Today's fire service has systems in place to ensure that all

firefighters stay healthy and ready to respond to the next call. In the past, stress programs have been looked upon as unnecessary or something only people of questionable commitment would make use of. The reality is that stress from our work is real. If it is affecting people in a negative manner it must be dealt with appropriately or it will have significant impact on the employee and the employer.

There are several documented studies that support the need for critical incident stress intervention programs. As a 24 x 7 industry that runs into all sorts of different and difficult situations, we need to make sure that our personnel are ready, willing and capable of handling anything that comes along.

The nine situations which should trigger a stress team response are:

1. serious injury or line of duty death
2. suicide of a co-worker
3. death or serious injury to a child
4. prolonged failed rescue
5. multi-casualty incident / disaster
6. victim is known to the responder
7. any incident where the personal safety of the responder is jeopardized
8. incidents with excessive media interest
9. any significant event with unusually strong emotional components

Working with the existing local teams, the task force has put together a list of the fire districts and the teams which respond within or to those fire districts. For communities that do not already have a team within their fire district, a telephone number is being developed to allow departments to request assistance through the Department of Fire Services.

Some traditional thinkers will dismiss this initiative as that "touchy feely stuff." In actuality it is a process that provides us, the fire service, with the necessary support so that we may continue to provide the superior service that has been our hallmark. ♦

Omega Sprinkler Recall

Continued from page 1

suffered injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation. Over \$4.3 million in property damage has been reported. The fires occurred between 1990 and the present in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. In some cases, the sprinkler directly above the fire failed to operate. Omega fire sprinklers are installed in homes, schools, hospitals, dormitories, nursing homes, prisons, offices, hotels and other buildings as well as federal buildings, including the Smithsonian Museums and the U.S. Capitol, which house many of the country's historical artifacts. Omegas have been or are being removed from many state and federal buildings, including the White House. As part of the settlement agreement, Central has asked Underwriters Laboratories to withdraw its listing of approval for all Omega brand fire sprinklers. Consumers themselves should be able to determine whether their homes or other buildings are equipped with Omega fire sprinklers. On most models, consumers will be able to see three flat round metal disks stacked one above the other with a small space between each disk. Consumers should not attempt to unscrew the sprinkler or

shut down their sprinkler system to determine if they have Omegas. Central will send consumers a packet of information to help them identify the sprinklers involved. The recall of the Omega sprinklers includes models referred to or marked as follows:

C1 (or C-1)
C1A (or C-1A)
C-1A PRO (or C1-A PRO)
C1-A PRO QR
EC-20
EC-20A
R-1
R-1A
R-1M
Flow Control (FC, Flow Control-FC)
Protector-M or M Protector (Upright, Pendent, Sidewall, Sidewall EC)
HEC-12
EC-12 RES
HEC-12 EC
HEC-12 EC PRO
HEC-12 ID
HEC-12 PRO
HEC-12 PRO QR
HEC-20
Prohibitor QR and AC.

Central is offering consumers free replacement glass bulb fire sprinklers and reimbursement toward the cost of having Omega sprinklers removed and replaced. CPSC routinely requires companies to pay the full costs associated with recalls. In this case, Central's

reported financial condition reveals that its ability to pay the cost of replacing the Omega sprinklers is limited. Consumers are urged to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline, available 24 hours a day, at (800) 896-5685 or to access the Omega recall website at Omegarecall.com to participate in the recall. For consumers to get any monetary reimbursement for installation costs, they must submit a proof of claim and release to Central postmarked by August 1, 1999. Consumers are urged to take immediate action and call today. Since Omega may not operate in a fire, it is particularly important that consumers have at least one fully operational smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. To ensure that the detector's batteries are working, test the detector every month. Consumers also should have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. To obtain a free copy of "Your Home Fire Safety Checklist," visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov or write to CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207.

For additional local information you may also visit the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal's website at <http://www/MAGnet.state.ma.us/sfmo/omega.htm> or call the Department of Fire Services Omega information line at 1-800-532-8499. ♦

Websites for Fire Investigators

Arson: Motives Behind Arson Fires

<http://www.wpi.edu/~averill/fp571/assigni.html>

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

<http://www.atf.treas.gov/>

Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)

cfei@erol5.com

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Gopher://cpsc.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency home page

<http://www.fema.gov>

Federal OSHA

<http://www.osha/safelinks.html>

Fire Findings Magazine

<http://www.firefindings.com>

Interactive Weather Information Network

<http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/graphicsversion/main.html>

National Association of Fire Marshals

<http://www.firemarshals.org/>

National Fire Protection Association

<http://www.nfpa.org>

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Takaski,kashwagi@nist.gov

National Safety Council

<http://www.cais.net/nsc>

UST Deadline Looms: December 22, 1998

The December 22, 1998 deadline for removal and upgrade requirements for all underground storage tanks is fast approaching. Underground storage tanks (UST's) must be upgraded with some form of leak detection and, if it's a steel tank it must have corrosion protection by December 22, 1998 or the tank must be removed from the ground.

Consumptive Use fuel oil tanks - tanks used exclusively for area heating and hot water on the premises - are exempt from both leak detection and cathodic protection requirements, regardless of the size.

Diesel Generator tanks are exempt from leak detection requirements but not cathodic protection.

Forms of Leak Detection include:

1. Installing an in-tank monitor which at the close of each month shall, continuously for a six hour period, monitor the tank to determine any loss of product.
2. The in-tank monitor or continuous leak detection system must be capable of detecting a loss of 0.20 gallons per hour or more over a six-hour period with the probability of detection of 0.95 and a probability of false alarm of 0.05.
3. Monitor the vapors in the soil through the use of a continuous monitor
4. Monitor the vapors in the soil through the use of a monthly monitoring device.
5. Double-walled tank with an interstitial monitor.

Corrosion Protection

Can only be added to UST's that have been determined to be structurally sound.

If the tank is less than ten years old - two tightness tests may be used to determine structural integrity. The first

test must be conducted prior to installing cathodic protection. The second test must be performed between six and twelve months after adding cathodic protection.

If the tank is over ten years old - either an internal inspection should be made or an alternative method should be used as outlined in ASTM: E 40-94 Emergency Standard Practice for Alternative Procedures for the Assessment of Buried Steel Tanks Prior to the Addition of Cathodic Protection (copies available from our office).

Questions re: UST's should be directed to Tom Carr or George Nice at (978) 567-3710. ♦

Tank Removal

The Code Compliance Section of the Office of the State Fire Marshal has been made aware of several contractors that are removing aboveground and underground tanks who probably should not be in this line of work. Recently, a Compliance Officer asked one of these tank removal "experts" how he would check the flammability range on one of the tanks recently removed. The contractor's answer was "he didn't know." He was then asked, "what were the LEL readings prior to loading the tank with dry ice?" The contractor replied "what are LELs?". LEL is Level of Explosive Limit.

These types of comments have not been an uncommon experience for Code Compliance Officers during the last couple of weeks. Therefore, the Code Compliance Unit offers the following safe practices that should be used by all departments prior to the issuance of any tank removal permit.

Before excavating the tank:

- Make sure the contractor has demonstrated sufficient knowledge and understanding on the safe process of removing underground or above ground storage tanks.
- Ensure that each contractor has the required vapor monitoring equipment, that the equipment has been warmed up and calibrated in an uncontaminated area

prior to use.

- During the excavation process, make sure that the contractor routinely monitors for vapors in, around and below the excavation area especially near the vent and in the tank opening (fill).

After the tank has been purged or inerted, and prior to being removed from the tank location:

Make sure all holes have been plugged and or capped. Allow for one plug to have a 1/8 inch vent hole to allow and compensate for excessive temperature changes.

As a reminder, the proper amounts for inerting tanks are the following:

Carbon Dioxide Gas - is generated by crushing and distributing dry ice evenly over the bottom of the tank. The recommended amounts vary from 15-20 pounds per 1,000 gallons of tank capacity. The amount varies due to variables such as type of petroleum product and temperature of the tank. Always take multiple readings to ensure that the tank atmosphere is "safe".

Nitrogen Gas - is pumped into the tank and since nitrogen is heavier than air, sinks to the bottom of the tank. This form of inerting has been found to be most effective. Bonding or grounding the nozzle and/or delivery hose is recommended to prevent static build-up.

NOTE: Inerting with compressed carbon dioxide is not recommended. The build-up of static electricity is greatest if this process is allowed.

Once the tank has been excavated, removed from the ground, and before the tank is removed from the site, the contractor should do the following:

- Recheck the tank atmosphere to ensure that the flammable vapor concentration does not exceed safe levels for transport.
- Recheck all corrosion holes to ensure that they are plugged.
- Tanks should be labeled or the driver of the transport vehicle should have information concerning the tank such as former contents, present vapor state, vapor-freeing treatment and the date and time. ♦

MFIRS CORNER

1998 MFIRS Data

The 1998 MFIRS data must be submitted by 2/15/99. Fire incident reports received after 2/15/99 will not be included in the 1998 Annual Report. Certifications for communities having no reportable fires will be mailed in the beginning of January. Please sign and return them as soon as possible if this applies to your community.

Common Coding Errors

The following is a list of the most common errors we have found in the 1998 MFIRS data. These errors can easily be fixed to ensure the most accurate data possible. Please review the following list of errors and take the necessary steps to make sure your fire reports are accurate.

*****Complex** cannot be coded 00. Please change any 00's to 98.

*****Fixed Property Use (FPU)** cannot be 999. Please change any 999's to 000's.

*****If Type of Situation Found (TSF)**

= 11, then **extent of flame damage** cannot be 8. Please change any 8's to 0's.

*****Extent of flame damage** cannot be 9. Please change any 9's to 0's.

***Valid codes for **smoke detector performance** are: 0,1,2,3,4,5,8,9. Codes 6 and 7 are not valid codes.

***Valid codes for **sprinkler performance** are: 0,1,2,3,8,9. Codes 4, 5, 6 and 7 are not valid codes.

*****Alarm, Arrival, and Back in Service Times** need to be valid; blanks or 0000 or 9999 are invalid times.

***For **firefighter protective gear** on a casualty report: if protective gear was not worn (worn = 8) then the status and problem must reflect that. Please review the proper codes for these fields.

Once again, making these changes will help give MFIRS better data to analyze. MFIRS wants to give the most accurate profile of the fire problem in your community.

Motor Vehicle Fires & Form FP-33C

Please note that motor vehicle fire incident reports are due, with or without the FP-33C form, 48 hours after the fire. Please do not hold onto forms waiting for owners to fill out FP-33C. Thanks!

If you have any questions, please call Amy at (978) 567-3382. ♦

Code Violations

Continued from page 2

gas pipe, and removed gas meters, all in order to have "free" hot water and electricity. There were numerous other fire and health code violations found in the building.

David J. Parish, 45, formerly of 3 Hunnewell Street, Melrose was convicted on 19 counts of stealing utility services from his tenants. He was sentenced in October to 2 ½ years in the Billerica House of Correction. He will serve nine months followed by three years of probation. ♦



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
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